~~TOP SECRET~~ (H) [redacted]

~~TS~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

[redacted]

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

3 May 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With Mel Laird, May 2, 1972 (EOI)

I mentioned to Mel that whereas the guidance received from the White House (Kissinger's September 23 memo) stated that an orderly program should be instituted leading to operational capability in 1976, we [redacted] have to choose between holding the 1976 IOC date and the [redacted] limit set by Dave Packard at the ExCom meeting of November 1971. Recent indications are that the [redacted] program office might ask for an additional [redacted] which [redacted] push the budget far above th[redacted]mit [redacted] for FY74. I said that I was not willing to [redacted] any revision without ExCom concurrence and I was not sure I wanted to ask ExCom for any more money.

Mel's reaction was that we had not seen the last of the budget cuts and that the NRO budget would have to take cuts along with everyone else. I said I understood that, that we had been in the habit of taking two or three rounds of cuts as the budget was being put in final form, and the NRO didn't expect to be exempt from consideration this year. Mel reiterated that no money should go to [redacted] without looking at the whole budget. I asked for his views on whether we can successfully defend [redacted] for five years to put the [redacted] system into operation. He [redacted] he felt we would be succ[redacted].

I then raised the question of [redacted] ckup [redacted] said that we had stopped all work o[redacted] in acc[redacted] White House guidance (September 23 m[redacted]t we had a continuing R&D program to develop an electro-optical device suitable for use in [redacted] said I felt this should be continued at a level of a [redacted] year (current funding is a[redacted] cover us in ca[redacted] into trouble, either financial or technical. Mel co[redacted]t this was a good thing to do.

[redacted]

J[redacted]as

[redacted]

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